A

DISCOURSE

ON

Antichriſt,

AND THE

APOCALYPS

SHEWING

That the Number of the Beaſt χξς

ought not to be Tranſlated 666 but 42 only,
That Chriſtians have raigned a 1000 years,
And That Mahomet is the grand
ANTICHRIST.

By *Richard Franklin.*

London, Printed for the Author, 1675.

1675
tF834

THE PREFACE TO THE READER.

THE cheif Design of this Discourse is, to demonstrate that the last and most Beloved Apostle of Christ, St. *John*; was a most true, a most clear and Rhetorical Prophet: he Prophecyed of the *three grand Monarchies of the World.*

First, The *Roman.*

Secondly, The *Christian.*

Thirdly, The *Turkish Empires.*

Of *The Roman*, he Propheſies that after 42 Emperours had reigned, *Babylon* should fall, and Christians should rise. *Julius Cæsar* was the first, and *Constantius Clorus* was the forty second and the last Pagan Emperour of *Rome.*

Constantine M. was the 43, he pulled down *Rome*, and set up a fifth Monarchy of *Christians* at *Constantinople*, and the *Christians* did hold the Empire and chief City of the World in their hands a Thousand years. And then *Gog Magog* (*the Turk*) Conquered them according to St. *Johns* Propheſie.

For *Conſtantine M.* the Founder of the Chriſtian Monarchy, began his reign at *Rome anno* 310. and at *Conſtantinople anno* 315. *Ottoman* the the chief Turk *anno* 1300. began his Kingdome at *Saguta*, which was but ten or fifteen years before the *Chriſtians Millennium* was compleated. But a Kingdom is not ſaid to be Conquered, when ſome ſmall Towns and Provinces in the Frontiers are invaded and taken; but when the King and Imperial City and Army is totally vanquiſhed: neither could the *Tartarians* with all their Force and Numbers, overcome the Saints or ruine the *Emperour* and the *Beloved City* of Criſtendome, *Conſtantinople*, till after they had reigned above a Thouſand years.

And ſince *Gog Magog* with the *Saracens*, &c. have been the greateſt deſtroyers of *Chriſtendome*, and ſince their falſe Prophet ſo much oppoſes and exalts himſelf above *Chriſt*, I therefore pronounce *Mahomet to be the grand Antichriſt.*

Farewel.

A

DISCOURSE

ON

ANTICHRIST

AND THE

APOCALYPS, &c.

IN my converse with Books and Men, I have observed that the name of *Antichrist* is commonly used as an ugly *Bear-skin vizard*; that one party puts on the face of another party, to render it the more odious; and every party, right or wrong, is sure to be branded with the Nick-name of *Anti-christian*, as every oppressed or conquered party Comforts themselves with the name of *Persecuted*, and *Martyrs*.

The *Patriark of Constantinople* was first called *Antichristian* by the *Bishop of Rome*, afterwards the *Pope* was proclaimed *Antichrist* by the Protestants; in the Raign of our *King Charls the first*, the *Presbyterians* called our *Bishops Antichristian*; in *Cromwells time* the *Quakers*, and other *Sectarists* called the *rigid Presbyterians*, *Antichristian*; and our *Holy Universities*, and *our Royal City* at its last Conflagration, have been reviled as *Seats of the Whore of Babylon*.

The *Antients* have also had as strange phansies of *Antichrist*, that he should be begotten by a Diabolical *Incubus*; and that *Enoch* and *Elias* are the two Witnesses in the *Revelations*, who appearing on Earth again, and Prophesying against him, should be slain by him.

The *Schoolemen* likewise have betrayed themselves to be but *blind Hagarens*, that they could not see the mystery of iniqui-

ty

ty, *in the Saracens*, and though they ſaw St. *Pauls Propheſie* of the falling away of the Nations from the *Roman Emperour* exactly fulfilled, yet ſtill their concluſion was, that *Antichriſt is not yet come*, the reaſon was, I ſuppoſe, either their ignorance or *rather fear*, becauſe their *Pope* looked and acted ſo much like *Antichriſt*, and therefore *Aquinas* and the reſt of the *School-men* are very ſparing in Writing on this point, ſome *Modern Divines* make *Antichriſt* to be an æmulatour, or Vicar of Chriſt or one that pretends to be *for Chriſt* in word, but in deed, is againſt him, and ſo *Antichriſt* muſt be the grand Hypocrite in the World.

Others think to ſalve all difficulties by diſtinguiſhing between *the mean Antichriſt*, and the *main or grand Antichriſt*, and this is again ſubdivided into *Antichriſt within the Church*, and *Antichriſt without the Church*; and they ſay, every ſinner is a *petty Antichriſt* in a large ſence, but ſtrictly and properly *Antichriſt* is (as *Aquinas* defines him) *caput omnium malorum in perfectione malitiæ*, the wickedeſt rogue, the greateſt oppoſer of Chriſt in the World.

For my part I believe, that the term *Antichriſt* ought not to be ſtretched to ſo large a ſence, as to comprehend all ſorts of Enemies or all kinds of ſinners againſt Chriſt, but only ſome particular ſorts, for if every kind of oppoſition of Chriſt, if every ſmall degree of ſinning did formally denominate and conſtitute any perſon *an Antichriſt*, then the greateſt degree or kind of wickedneſs would render a perſon *the grand Antichriſt*, and if ſo, then we need ſeek no farther, for then the *Devil* muſt be the *Antichriſt*, for the Devil is a greater adverſary to Chriſt and a wickeder perſon then any man in the World can poſſibly be: Yea he is the prime cauſe of all *Atheiſme*, *Antichriſtianiſme*, of all Hereſie and Sin in the World, yet he can't be an *Atheiſt*, or an *Antichriſt*, for he believes that Jeſus is come in the Fleſh, and is truly the Son of God, *Mar.* 1. 24. *Mar.* 3. 11.

Beſides, the *Devil* oppoſed *Chriſt* in his life time, and his Religion and Diſciples in the Apoſtles dayes, as much as ever ſince, but the grand Antichriſt was not to appear, till *laſt the dayes*, ſo there are many *Hereticks* and *vicious livers in the Church*, yet Hereſie and vice only puts them under the number and ſpecies

of

of *bad reprobate Christians* in contradiction to the *good and Orthodox Christians*, but they can no more be called *Antichrists*, then the Heretical *Pharisees* and *vicious Sadducees* could be called *Anti-Jews*, for they Worshipped no other God, but the God of the Jews.

Therefore, I shall interpret the Word *Antichrist*, as any rational man would interpret an *Anti-moses*, *Anti-mahomet*, *Anti-Jew* or *Anti-Gentile*, for a man or Generation of men of a contrary Religion to either of them. For *Antichrist* cannot be a Christian but must be a sect of men, or else the head and ring-leader of a Faction or sort of men, that are *of a contrary Religion to Christs*, for the word *Antichrist* is mentioned in no place of Scripture but in St. *Johns* Epistles only, 1 *John* 2. 22. 23. 2 *epist.* 7. he is *Antichrist that denies the Father, and the Son, and that denies that Christ is come in the Flesh*; now neither of St. *Johns* definitions can agree to any Christians in the World, for such either never were, or else do cease to be Christians, for such as deny that the *Messias* is already come, are Jews; t hey that deny the Father and the Son, deny *the very essential form of Baptism*, by which men are constituted Christians, such deny *the cheif Articles of our Creed, the incarnation of Christ*, and *the Trinity*. And who and what were *those many Antichrists* that were in St. *Johns* dayes, 1 *John* 2. 18. are expounded by St. *John* himself, *ver.* 19. to be such as went out from the Church, and so discovered themselves not to be true Christians: there were many *Antichristian Jews*, and *Heathens* in St. *Johns* time, and many other prophane *Gnosticks*, that were plotting and contriving another new Religion, in contempt of and opposition to Christs, for this *mystery of iniquity* began to work in St. *Pauls* dayes, 2 *Thes.* 2. Besides, *these Antichrists* are directly opposed to those that ἔχειν τὸ χρίσμα or had the Christian Religion still abiding in them, *v.* 24. 27. for χρίσμα is the only proper word in Greek for *Christianity*, and it comes from the same greek *radix* as *Christ*, and therefore must be the formal abstract, that denominates any subject Christian.

And if you interpret this χρίσμα *the holy unction of the Spirit of Grace*, the sence is still the same; for they that have not the Spirit of Christ are none of Christs, *Rom.* 8. 19.

There-

Therefore I say again, that the *general Essence of Antichrist*, consists in the contrariety of Religion to Christs, even as an *Anti-Socinian*, an *Anti-Lutheran*, or *Anti-Papist*, is one of a contrary opinion to the *Socinians*, *Lutherans*, *Papists*.

For it implyes as much a contradiction to affirm, that *Antichrist* can be a *Christian*, as that an *Anti-Moses* or an *Anti-Mahomet* should be one of *Moses* or *Mahomets* Religion; now since there are *three Religions in the World*, and but three only contrary to the Religion of Christ, hence I inferre, that there are three, and but three sorts of *Antichrists*, *Jews*, *Heathens*, and *Mahometans*.

The Jews deny that Christ is yet come in the Flesh; the *Heathens* worshipped other feigned *Gods*, besides the true God of the Christians, and both most maliciously persecuted the Name, Religion, and Disciples of Jesus, therefore they both were formally *Antichrists*.

But yet both St. *John* and St. *Paul* expected and Propheſied that in the *last dayes*, after their death, upon the falling away of the Nations from the Roman Emperour, or (as others say) of Christians from the Faith, another *worse and wickeder* Antichrist should appear, who should oppose and exalt himself against Christ more then either Jews or Heathens, 2 *Thes.* 2. 2. 3, 4, 5, 6.

Hue and Cry has been sent for this *Antichrist* throughout the Earth, all the *marks of the beast* described, and they that have been taken upon suspicion are the *Pope of Rome* and *Mahomet*.

But the main ground of mens mistakes in this controversie, is their misinterpreting and wrong applying of St. *Johns* Propheſie of the *Whore Babylon*, and the *Beast* thereof.

Tis granted on all sides, that *Babylon* in the *Revelation*, is not the *Eastern Babylon* of *Semiramis* and *Nebuchadnezzar* in *Chaldaea*, for that was destroyed by *Cyrus* the *Persian*, and all the Jewish Propheſies against her were fulfilled long before St. *Johns* time. Therefore *this new Babylon* must be some other great City like unto *old Babylon for Idolatry* and *persecuting of the Saints*.

1. And first, the Character *of the Whore of Babylon* in the 17. *chapter of the Revelations* can agree to no other City in the world

world but to *Rome* only, because no other City in St. *Johns* days reigned over all the Kings and Nations of the Earth, but *Rome* only; yet in point of Prudence and Policy the *Apostles* did not openly and plainly Prophesie the destruction of *Rome*, for fear of exasperating the *Romans* to greater cruelty against *Christians*.

2. No other City then was built on seven Hills, but *Rome* only, viz. 1. *Mons Palatinus*, 2. *Capitolinus*, 3. *Viminalis*, 4. *Aventinus*, 5. *Esquilinus*, 6. *Cælius*, 7. *Quirinalis*.

3. No other Country was destroyed *by ten Kings*, which in St. *Johns* time had not the name and Power of Kings, but the *Countrey of Rome* only; there were indeed many more Kings which erected Monarchies in the remote Dominions of the *old Roman Empire*, as in *Germany* and *Brittain*, &c. which never came near, or entred *Italy* with Hostile Armies: Therefore I shall insist only on those ten Kings which invaded *Italy* and destroyed the City *Rome*.

1. The first was *Alaricus* King of the Gothes.
2. *Attila* King of the Hunnes.
3. *Genfericus* King of the Vandals.
4. *Byorgus* King of the *Alani* or *Lithuani*, then the Gothes invaded *Italy* and sacked *Rome* again.
5. *Odoacer* King of the *Heruli*.
6. *Gundebaldus* King of the Burgundians.
7. *Alboinus* King of the Lombards.
8. The King of the French, *Pipin*, and *Charles* the *Great* his Son, the first Emperour of the *Germans*, who with his French and German Souldiers made a most complete conquest of all *Italy*.
9. *Mahomet* III. King of the Saracens who conquered *Naples* and fired the very Suburbs of *Rome*.
10. *Mahomet the great*, King of the Turks who took *Otranto* and frightned the people of *Rome* out of their Habitations, so that the City was left naked and desolate, some of these Kings invaded the Country of *Rome* several times, as the *Burgundians* twice invaded *Italy*.

So the *Gothes* took *Rome* twice, yet their King *Theodoricus* is not to be accounted a different King from *Alaricus*, because

they were both Kings of the ſame blood, of one and the ſame Nation and People; the like may be ſaid of the *French Kings* and *German Emperours*, the Succeſſors or Countrymen of *Charles the great*, for the *French and Germans* were all one in the days of *Charles M.* Yea to illuſtrate the Truth of this Propheſie according to the preſent ſtate of *Italy*, ſince 'twas ranſacked by theſe *ten Kings* and ſince the fall of moſt of their Kingdomes and Power in *Italy*, 'tis again ordered by Divine Providence, that *Italy* is divided into ten States and Principalities, no more nor leſſe, as

1. The Kingdome of *Naples.*
2. The Popedome of *Rome.*
3. The Commonwealth of *Venice.*
4. The Dukedome of *Florence.*
5. The Dukedome of *Millain.*
6. The Dukedome of *Mantua.*
7. The Dukedome of *Urbine.*
8. The Principate of *Parma.*
9. The State of *Genoa.*
10. The State of *Luca.*

4thly. No other City had *ſeven ſorts of Kings*, or *ſeven forms of Governments*, whereof five before St. *Johns* time were fallen, the ſixth then was, and the ſeventh was to come ſhortly, but *Rome* only,

1. The *Romulean* Kings.
2. *Conſuls.*
3. *Decemviri.*
4. *Triumviri.*
5. *Dictatours.*
6. *Pagan Emperours.*
7. *Chriſtian* or *Conſtantinopolitan Emperours.* I know that the *ſeventh King* of *Rome* is commonly reputed the *Pope*, but that contradicts all Reaſon and Hiſtory of times.

1. For Firſt St. *John* ſayes expreſly that when the *ſeventh King* comes, he ſhall continue but a *very ſhort time*, *Rev.*17.10. but the *Pope of Rome* has been accounted ſupream Head of the Church above a 1000 years, and has claimed his Temporal power over all Kings and Princes above 600 years, and has been

King

King or Lord of *Rome* above 800 years.

2. The *ſeventh* King muſt be the next *to the ſixth King of Rome*, but the next to the ſixth in *St. Johns* dayes, was *Conſtantine the Great*, he continued but a ſhort ſpace at *Rome*, but removed to *Conſtantinople*, and at his death divided the whole *Roman Empire* into three parts between his three ſons.

To his eldeſt ſon *Conſtantinus* he gave *Germany*, *France*, *Spain*, *Brittain*, &c. His ſecond ſon *Conſtans* he made Emperour of *Rome*, *Illyricum*, *Affrica*, &c. His third ſon *Conſtantius* was Emperour of *Conſtantinople* and the Eaſt.

Upon the death of the two Elder ſons, his youngeſt ſon, *the Conſtantinopolitan Emperour* was again Emperour of *Rome*, and all its former Dominions.

Neither did this Union laſt long, for within 50 years *Theodoſius the great* divided the whole Empire again the ſecond time, between his two ſons, to *Arcadius* the eldeſt he gave *Conſtantinople* and the Eaſt, to *Honorius* the youngeſt he gave *Rome* and the Weſt. After the death of eleven Weſtern Emperours, the *Empire of Rome* was again the third time devolved on the Conſtantinopolitan, as the right Heir apparent, who ſet up *Exarks at Ravenna* to keep *Italy* in peace and order, and *Rome* was turned into a ſubordinate *Dukedome*, and when theſe *Exarks of Ravenna* were conquered by the *Lombards*, then the *Pope* by palpable Rebellion and Uſurpation made himſelf *King of Rome*; yea *Alaricus* King of the *Gothes*, *Genſericus* King of the *Vandals*, *Odoacer* King of the *Heruli*, &c. were Kings of *Rome* before the *Pope*. So that the *Pope* is more likely to be the ſeventeenth King of *Rome* than the ſeventh.

3. *Conſtantine the great* muſt be the ſeventh King of *Rome*, becauſe he was one of a different Religion, and alſo an Emperour of a different Place from *the ſixth King in* St. *Johns* dayes, yea this *Conſtantine the great* may paſſe for the ſeventh and Eighth, for a double and ſingle Emperour too, he may paſſe for the *beaſt*, *that was*, *is not*, and *yet is*, at whom the World ſo much wondred, *Rev.* 17. 8. 11. for he was firſt for a ſmall time *King of Rome*, after he had erected another Imperial Seat, *viz. Conſtantinople*, it might have been ſaid of him, *he is not* King of *Rome*, but of an higher place for *omnis denominatio fit a præſtantiori*

tiori, and *yet is*, becauſe he had as much power and command over *Rome*, as any before. Now ſince 'tis ſaid there are but *ſeven Kings of Rome*, and yet an *eighth* is mentioned, therefore thoſe words [*he is the eighth, and is of the ſeventh, Rev.* 17. 11.] may be interpreted *one of the ſeven*, or the *ſame with the ſeventh*, as *Conſtantine* was.

The Heathens wondred at the ſeeming folly and madneſs of Conſtantine the Great, in forſaking *Rome*, whereas *Cammillus* was highly extolled for his wiſdom in firing down to the ground the Town *Veji*, leſt the conveniencies and pleaſantneſs of *Veji* ſhould tempt the *Romans* to leave their Antient Seat, the *City Rome*.

If this interpretation pleaſe not, the *Roman Hiſtory* informs us, that there was an *eighth King of Rome*, which was a limb, part or member of the ſeven former, there were but ſeven complete, total, univerſal Kings of *Rome*, but yet at laſt there was a *partial half* or *Weſtern Emperour*. Thus upon the firſt diviſion of the empire by *Conſtantine the Great*, there was an *eighth* or partial *Emperour Conſtans*, upon the re-union of the Empire, *he is not*, upon the ſecond diviſion by *Theodoſius*, he is again, *Honorius* and his Succeſſors in whoſe time the great City *Rome* was to the wonder of the world Conquered by thoſe puny inconſiderable Nations of the *Gothes* and *Vandals*, &c.

Conſtantine the Great muſt needs be the *ſeventh King of Rome* becauſe he governed by different Laws, and made a greater alteration in the *Roman Empire* than either the *Conſuls*, *Decemviri*, *Triumviri* or *Cæſars* did at their changing of the Government. Yea all Hiſtorians and Chronologers make a new *æra epocha* and *date* in their computation of time at the reign of *Conſtantine the Great*, and there is this good reaſon for it, becauſe then *the number of the Beaſt* was fulfilled, *Rev.* 13. 18. 19. *And that no man might buy or ſell, ſave he that had the mark or the name of the beaſt, or the number of his name. Here is Wiſdom, let him that has underſtanding count the number of the beaſt, for it is the number of a man, and his number is* χξς. The meaning of which Propheſie is, that when *Forty two Emperours* ſhould have finiſhed their reign in *Rome*, then the number of *Heathen Emperours* ſhould be accompliſhed, the perſecution ſhould ceaſe, and *Babylon*

bylon ſhould fall, as may be clearly inferred from the Chapters immediately following, *Rev.* 14. 3. 6. 8. *Rev.* 15. 23.

For the clearing this myſtery, theſe propoſitions muſt be demonſtrated.

1. That the *number of the beaſt* is not 666 but 42 only.
2. That there were 42 Emperours of *Rome*, and but 42 before it fell.
3. In the Reign of the 43th Emperour, *Rome* fell, the perſecution ceaſed, and *Chriſtians* had joy.

1. That the number of the beaſt is not 666. but 42 only.

χ	ξ	ς
22	14	6
42		

χ	22
ξ	14
ς	6
42	

For to interpret the *number* 666 is to contradict all experience and Hiſtory of the times, in the year 607 the *Pope* aroſe, and in the year 622 *Mahomet*, but in the year 666 there was no remarkable accident throughout the world, and no mans name could ever as yet be found out to expreſſe this number; 'tis an antient Tradition in the Church, that the word λατεινος doth ſignifie this number, but the only true meaning thereof is this, that the beaſt, which St. *John* prophecyeth of is a Latine *i.e.* a *Roman* or *Italian*; but it doth not determine, whether it be the *Latine Emperour* or the *Latine Pope*. The Chriſtian Emperour of *Rome* was a *Latine*, as well as the Pagan, and the good old Biſhops of *Rome* were *Latines* as well as the Pope.

Neither can it be proved that there were 666 perſons, no more nor leſſe, Governours of *Rome*, from the very firſt foundation thereof to its final deſtruction. It muſt be confeſſed that the numeral letters χ ξ ς do ſignifie according to the Greeks ordinary way of numbering 666. But thus every fool might count the number, and there is *no myſtery* or difficulty in this interpretation, but St. *John* ſayes, it requires extraordinary wiſdom, a rare underſtanding to count this number, *Rev.* 13. 19. *erit mihi magnus Apollo, that does it.* Now the *Greeks* have a way of numbring ſometimes by their letters contrary to, and diverſe from the common way of numbring, as appears by *Homers* intituling his

firſt

first book α, his ninth book ι, his tenth κ, his eleventh λ, his twelfth μ, &c. whereas according to the Greeks ordinary way of numbring ι signifies 10, κ 20, λ 30, μ 40. thus *Adrianus Amerotius* obſerves, that ſometimes among the Greeks the firſt letter α ſtands for one, and the twenty fourth letter ω for 24, ſo that the two and twentieth letter in the Greek Alphabet χ may ſtand for 22, and the fourteenth letter ξ for 14 as *Homer* names his two and twentieth and fourteenth book, and ϛ is the uſual figure of 6 as for Example.

χ ξ ϛ	χ 22
22 14 6	ξ 14
42	ϛ 6
	42

A compariſon between *the numeral figures of Homers books* and the *chapters of Geneſis* or St. *Mathew*, &c. will moſt clearly evidence the Truth of this myſtery, for the 22th. and the 14th. chapters of *Geneſis*, and St. *Matthew* are entituled κϚ and ιδ but 22th. and 14th. books of *Homer* are χ and ξ.

The *number*, the *name*, and the *mark of the beaſt* are all mentioned together, *Rev.* 13. 17. 18. The beaſt is the *Roman Emperour*, for ſo in *Daniel*, the *Aſſyrian*, *Perſian*, and *Greek* Empires are called and compared to Beaſts. The *mark of the Beaſt* are thoſe Idols he ſet up to be worſhipped, ſo χαραγμα ſignifies; Act. 17. 29. whoſoever would not own the name of a *Roman Subject*, nor *worſhip his Idols* ſhould neither buy nor ſell, *i. e.* have neither Life nor Liberty. Therefore the number of the *beaſt* muſt be the number of thoſe Emperours, that ſhould uphold the Idolatry and perſecution of *Rome*. The number of the beaſt is ſaid to be the number of a man, and that mans number is χξϛ i. e. that man, who ſhall be the forty ſecond Emperour of *Rome*, ſhall be *laſt of the Idolatrous perſecuting Emperours*, and this the event proves true, and all Divines ſay, that *Propheſies* ought to be interpreted according to the event.

2. The ſecond *Propoſition* to be demonſtrated, is, that there were 42 and but 42 *Emperours* who reigned over *Rome*, before it fell; during the reign of 42 Emperours, *Heathens* bare the ſway,

ſway, but afterward the Empire of the World fell into the hands of Chriſtians, this muſt be proved by an authentick Catalogue of the *Roman Emperours.*

Julius Cæſar.
Octavius Auguſtus.
Tiberius.
Caligula.
Claudius.
Domitius.
Sulpitius Galba.
Silvius Otho.
Vitellius.
Flavius Veſpatianus.
Titus Veſpatianus.
Domitianus.
Nerva Cocceius.
Trajanus.
Adrianus.
Antoninus Pius.
Aurelius Commodus.
Antonius Philoſophus:
Antoninus Commodus.
Pertinax.
Didius Julianus.
Septimius ſeverus.
Baſſianus Caracalla.
Opilius Macrinus.
Heliogabulus.
Alexander ſeverus.
Jul. Maximinus.
Gordianus.
Philippus Arabs.
Decius.
Gallus Hoſtilianus.
Æmilianus Maurus.
Valerianus.
Gallienus.
Flavius Claudius.
Quintilius.
Valentius Aurelianus.
Annius Tacitus.
Florianus.
Valerius probus.
Carus.
Dioclesianus.
Conſtantius Chlorus.
Conſtantinus M.

See Heylins Geography [illegible]

Againſt this Catalogue of *Roman Emperours*, ſome object, that there were not ſo many, before *Rome* fell.

I Anſwer, the *Modern Hiſtorians* make no mention of *Quintilius* and *Florianus*, becauſe the one reigned but 17 days, and the other not a month. But *Quintilius* was brother and Heir apparent to *Flavius Claudius*, and ſo was *Florianus* to *Annius Tacitus*, and both were elected Emperours by the conſent of the Senate as ſaith *Vopiſcus.*

2. Object. Others mention many more *Emperours* than theſe; I Anſwer, there were many more uſurpers of, and competitors for the Empire, without the conſent of the Senate, but yet there was but *one chief prevailing Emperour*; ſo there were many *Co-Emperours*, and *Aſſociates* in the Government, yet they are to be accounted but for one Head or Governour of *Rome*,

Rome; even as those many men in a Senate or Parliament make but one Senate or Parliament.

3. Object. Others say, there were *Christian Emperours of Rome* before *Constantine the Great*, as *Philippus Arabs* and *Chlorus*. I Answer, if *Philippus Arabs* was Baptized, 'twas but in secret, so he was but only a *Nicodemian Christian*, and *Chlorus* was only a great favourer of Christians, but none were publick Professours and establishers of Christianity, before *Constantine the Great*.

4. Object. There were Persecutions after the death of *Constantine the Great*, and that *Romes* Pagan Idolatry revived in the reign of *Julian the Apostate*. I Answer, *Julian* was a born, bred and professed Christian at first, but afterward turned Apostate, and his one short persecution was but as a short storm in the Summer, which does not argue it therefore Winter: that was but the last effort of dying *Babylon*, which had received her mortal wound from *Constantine the Great*. Some Christians also have persecuted other Christians since, but the whole race of *Pagan Emperours* was then ended, and the Antient Christians in *Julians* time did comfort one another with this cordial, that 'twas but a little Cloud or Tempest which would soon vanish away, even as there were some *lucida intervalla*, many times of tranquillity and refreshment to the Christians, before the number of *Pagan persecuting Emperours* was fulfilled.

3. And now I proceed to demonstrate the third proposition that after that 42 *Emperours* had reigned in *Rome*, *the number of the beast* was accomplished, and *Babylon* fell.

1. For the 43 Emperour of *Rome*, *Constantine the great*, was a professed Christian, and the first subverter of the *Roman Empire*; for in his reign *the Idolatrous Religion of Rome* was suppressed, the Gospel had its liberty to be preached to, and heard of all Nations, the Heathenish Priests were displaced, and other Civil and Military Officers were discountenanced, the whole race of *Pagan Emperours* were extinct, and the persecuting power of *Rome* was taken away.

2. *Constantine the Great* degraded *Rome* from being the *Empresse* of the World, and made her fall down as an inferiour subject to a superiour imperial City *Constantinople*, whether he

he transported most of *Romes* magnificent antiquities and most splendid Ornaments.

3. He removed the *Legions* and *Colonies of* Roman *Soldiers* out of the North and West, into the East; to fight against the *Persians*; &c. whereupon followed a most dreadful inundation of the babarous Nations over all *Italy*.

4. He abrogated the *old* Roman *Laws*, called *lex Julia and Papia*, containing great commands and priviledges of a married life, and zealously promoted and encouraged a *Monastical* and *unmarried state among Christians*, whereby the Roman *Empire* was so enfeebled and weakned through want of procreation of Children, that it had not Souldiers enough to encounter the mighty Armies of the *barbarous Nations*.

5. He disbanded the *Prætorian Order* (for their frequent exorbitances and rebellions) which were the cheif *Guardians* and supporters of the Roman *Emperours*, as the *Janizaries* are of the *great Turk*.

6. He divided at his death the Roman *Empire* between his three sons into three parts.

2. The *number of the beast* is first mentioned in the 2 last verses of the 13 chapter of the Re*velation*, and in the 2d verse of the 14 chapter, and no where else, and immediately follows the great joy, blessing, and thanksgiving of those Christians that had overcome the number of the beast, *i. e.* those that survived and continued Christians, after that the number of 42 Emperours had reigned in Rome.

Yea they sang the same *song of Moses* for their deliverance from the *Babylonish beast*, which the Israelites did sing for their deliverance from the *Egyptian Pharaoh* at the red Sea, Rev. 14. 2. 3. 4. Rev. 15. 23.

Now all *Ecclesiastical History* shews, that the first and greatest rejoycing of Christians was in the reign of *Constantine the Great*. Yea this their praising and thanksgiving can be applyed to no other time what ever; for the *other falls of Babylon* afterward by the *Gothes*, *Vandals*, &c. were causes not of joy but of greif and lamentation to Christians, at that time the only inhabitants of Rome.

And now since we have proved that *Constantine* was the ruiner

of that famous and Antient Empire of *Rome*, and since for so doing he is so much reproached and condemned by *Julian Zozimen* and others, it concerns Christians to vindicate and justifie that holy and wise Emperour, from whom all *Christendom* has received so much good; therefore first, *Constantine the Great* ought not to be blamed for relinquishing Rome, that antient Imperial Seat, because he acted only according to Divine Revelation, and the *instinct and command of Heaven* from God had commanded all Christians to come out of *Babylon*, *Rev.* 18.4. whether St. *Peter* ordered and appointed Rome to be the *Metropolis* of Christendom, and the Bishop thereof to be supream head of the Church, cannot be proved out of Scripture; but this is certain, that St. *John* after St. *Peters death* by Divine Revelation from Heaven expressly commands all Christians, both Emperours, Bishops and people of Rome locally to depart out of the accursed City, for God was resolved on the utter ruine of that Idolatrous persecuting abominable place, and to make it an habition of Owls, Satyres, Devils and unclean Beasts *Rev.* 18.21. *to* 24.

2. That a strong Bullwark against the *Persians* and other *Enemies* in the East was necessary for the upholding the *Roman Empire*, and that the Eastern part thereof was the best and richest, and that therefore 'twas most fit to defend that before the poor Barbarous West, no rational man can deny: And that *Constantine the Great* chose out the most convenient place throughout the whole World to make the Imperial Seat, *viz. Constantinople*, all Cosmographers and Travellers will justifie.

3. He was as discreet, wise and valiant, as temperate, sober, and universally vertuous, as industrious, victorious, and as careful for the publick good as any of the former *Cæsars*, but he could not reclaim the *great men of Rome* from worshipping their ancient Idols, and therefore resolves to build a City of pure Christians, wherein God should be worshipped in as great glory, freedome and purity as he was in old *Jerusalem*.

In short, the decree in Heaven against *Rome*, was past; and she deserved utter destruction, in justice she ought to be hated and abhorred, and plagued by the Universe, because she had so cruelly persecuted the Saints, and Tyrannized over the Nations of the

the Earth so long, without all mercy and measure, Rev. 18. 5. 6. 7. and it ought to be no more our wonder that the *antient City and Empire of Rome* should have a fall, than that those antient and great Cities of *Nineveh* and the *Eastern Babylon*, those mighty and famous Empires of *Assyria*, *Persia*, and *Greece* should come to the like shameful end. Yea *many of the barbarous Nations* (as *Jernandes* affirms) did protest, that they were sent by God, and had commands and Revelations from Heaven to destroy *Rome*, 'twas not without some extraordinary reason, that *Attila King of the Hunnes* styled himself the *scourge of God* to lash the *whore of Babylon* for all her abominations.

To conclude my former argument, all the Prophecyes that follow in the 14 and 15 chapters of the Revelation immediately after the first mention of the *number of the beast* in Rev. 13. 18. 19. were fulfilled in the reign of *Constantine the great*, and therefore the *number of the beast* was then expired, for my part I look upon the Revelation of St. *John*, not only as a Canonical book, but also a great honour to, and a clear conviction of the Truth of the Christian Religion, against *Atheists* and *Infidels*; as *Daniels* prophesie of the rise and fall of the *Assyrian*, *Persian*, and *Greek Monarchies* was to *Alexander M.* and others that read it, a *conviction of the excellency of the Jewish Religion*, for the *Testimony of Jesus* is the *spirit of prophesie*.

And if you compare the Revelation with the History of the *decay* and *ruine of the Roman* and *Constantinopolitan Empires*, you may find every word thereof exactly fulfilled, only allowing some *Hyperbolical expressions*, which all *Rhetoricians* count lawful.

Jesus himself foretold the destruction of the famous City of the Jews, *Jerusalem*; and after that was performed by *Titus Vespatian*, Jesus reveals to St. *John* (in the very next Emperours reign, *Domitian*, who sent St. *John* into *Patmos*) the *destruction of Rome*. 1. The most famous City of the Heathens. 2. He Propheſies of the *Resurrection of Christians*, and of their poor, low, persecuted condition to great Riches and Honour, Rev. 20. 3. That the Empire and Government of the World should shortly fall into the hands of Christians, so as they should reign, rule and get the upper hand and Dominion over those Heathens, that had

ſo cruelly and inhumanely perſecuted and domineer'd over them ſo long before, Rev. 20. 2,3,4,5,6. 4. 'Tis farther propheſyed, that this Empire reigning, and fifth Monarchy of Chriſtians ſhould continue a 1000 years. 5. That after a 1000 years reigning *Gog Magog* ſhould make war againſt, and overcome the Saints, Rev. 20. 7. 8. Now that St Johns Revelation is to be expounded as a *Rhetorical Propheſie*, or *Prophetical Hiſtory* of the future ſtate of *Rome*, *Chriſtendom*, and *Turky*, I ſhall now demonſtrate by the event. The *Empire of Chriſtendom* began in *Conſtantine the great*, and ended in *Conſtantinus Palæologus*. *Gog Magog* is the *Turk* who came out of *Tartary* or *Scythia* the Countrey of *Magog*, and after the 1000 years of Chriſtians reigning were expired, I ſay, about the next age, the *Turks* conquered the beloved and imperial City of Chriſtendom, Conſtantinople, which the primitive Chriſtians built on purpoſe for their Chriſtian Emperour to reign in, out of their deteſtation of *Idolatrous bloody Rome*, An. 310. Conſtantine the great, the firſt Chriſtian Emperour, began his reign: An. 1300 the cheif Family of the *Turks*, the *Oguzian* or *Ottoman line*, began their *Sultany* at *Saguta*, and their war againſt the Chriſtians. An. 315 Conſtantinople the Imperial City of Chriſtendome was built. An. 1452 'Twas totally conquered by the *Turks*; Conſtantinople indeed was beſieged and much endamaged by the *Scythians* in the reign of *Anaſtatius*, and again by the *Saracens* in the dayes of *Leo Iſaurus*, the *Latines* alſo poſſeſſed the Imperial Throne thereof 60 years, but the Latine *Emperours* were Chriſtians, as well as the Greeks, and were not *Magogs* off-ſpring, but Conſtantinople was never taken, and the Emperour thereof totally overcome, but by the *Turks* under *Mahomet the great*, An. 1452. ſo that the Chriſtians held the cheif City of the world about 1130 years. The *Jewiſh and Chriſtian Prophets*, took no notice of the *petty Empire of Germany*, of thoſe ſmall Kingdoms of *England*, *France*, or *Spain*, &c. but cheifly Propheſied of the *grand Monarchies of the World*, and they are ſix, 1. The *Aſſyrian*, 2. *Perſian*, 3. *Greek*, 4. *Roman*, 5. The *Empire of* Chriſtendom or Conſtantinopolitan, and 6 the *Empire of Gog Magog* the *Turk* or *Tartarian*. *Gog Magog* now flouriſhes more than all the *Sons of Noah* beſides. For not only *Tartary* and *Turky* is now in *Gog Magogs* poſſeſſion but alſo thoſe vaſt Empires of *Perſia* and *Chi-*

China have been conquered by him. Yea the great *Mogul* reckons himself the 10th. from that most wonderful conquerour of the East, *Tamerlain a Tartarian*. The *great Turk* also has gotten a large footing in the *Venetian* and *German* Dominions, & there is a firm League made between the *Emperour of Turky* & the *great Cham of Tartary* that the great *Cham of Tartary* shall aid the Turk with 60000 Souldiers on all occasions, and if the male line of the *Ottomans* fail, the *Cham of Tartary* shall be Emperour of Turky. Under *Gog Magog* Christians now suffer a second death, *i.e.* oppreon, persecution and misery, as their first death was under the *Heathen Romans*. How long *Gog Magog* shall prosper we can't determine, but we have Propheſies that he also shall be destroyed, St. *John* sayes, fire from Heaven shall devour him, *Rev.* 20. 9. and then Christians may expect a second Resurrection and reigning, after which there shall be no *third death*, *Rev.* 20. 13. and more glorious times may be hoped for hereafter, than ever Christians enjoyed before, Rev. 21. and 22. chap. for *Christ's Kingdome* is an universal Kingdome, and of his Dominion there shall be no end, *Dan.* 7. 27. And to me it seems strange that *this Propheſy* being of such great concernment to *Christians* and *Turks*, that neither of them should understand or take more notice of it before.

1. From what hath been said, hence I inferre that the *Chiliasts opinion* is both vain and erroneous, for the first Resurrection of *Christians* and their *Millennium* of reigning, is past long ago; because *Gog Magog* is already come, and yet he was not to come till the Christians had reigned a 1000 years, and no History records, no eye ever saw, no ear ever heard, that any of the Christian Saints and Martyrs bodies rose out of their Graves and lived on earth again, or that the body of *Christ* descended from Heaven to reign on a Throne on Earth. Therefore the first *Resurrection of the Saints* must be interpreted according to the sence of that Resurrection promised to the Jews, *Ezek.* 37. 1. *to* 15. where the Israelites being in an hopeleſse distressed condition are compared to dry bones without life, but God promises to bring them out of their Graves, and to put his spirit into them, and make them live again, and become a great Army, and return into the Land of *Israel*. Now none of those Jews that were slain, dyed, and were buried in Graves in *Babylon*, ever lived again or returned to the Land of *Israel*, but only their posterity or surviving brethren. A *desperate, helpleſse, distreſsed condition* is called in Scripture death, *Exod.* 10. 17. *Psalm* 88. 3, 4, 5. 2 *Cor.* 11. 23. therefore the first *Resurrection of Christians* must be their first deliverance from the Heathens Persecution, and oppression, and banishment in the reign of *Conſtantine the Great*, who was the first lifter up of the Heads and Hearts

Hearts of Christians who made Christians Governors of Cities, Generals of Armies, and Priests of Churches, In the *first four Monarchies of the World, Heathen* Kings and Priests bore the sway, but under the *fifth Monarchy* the Saints possessed the Kingdom, and held the Government of the chief places of the World in their own hands above a 1000 years.

2. Hence I inferre that that *Babylon* which St. *John* Prophesied against, is fallen above a 1000 years ago, for first *Gog Magog* is come, and he was not to come till Christians had reigned a 1000 years, and 'twas impossible for *Christians* to rise and reign, till *Babylons* power was fallen.

2. About *an.* 315. when Constantine the great set the Imperial Crown on *Byzantium*, then was *Rome* degraded, about *anno.* 410. *Rome* was most ruinously sacked, and fired down to the ground by the *Gothes*, & again *an.* 455. by the *Vandals*, and as the *Chaldean Babylon* was said to be fallen, when 'twas taken and its Empire was translated to the *Persians* by the *grand Cyrus*, although that *Babylon* continues still a famous City called *Bagdet*; so though *Rome* be yet a great City yet she has been often made desolate and naked, for her seven Heads have been cut of long ago, and her Empire quite gave up the Ghost upon the death of *Augustus*, before *anno* 500. yea those ten strange Kings which should be the destruction of *Rome*, most of their names and Kingdoms are utterly perished: lastly the *falling away* of the Nations from the *Roman Empire* is past, 2 *Thess.* 2, 3, 4. and began about *Anno* 365 about which time was a most ominous, prodigious Earthquake, and the water swelled higher in the Houses and Mountains; then and shortly after happened the dreadful inundation of *Barbarous Nations* over the *Roman Empire*, as *Gothes, Hunns, Vandals, Almaines, Quades, Picts, Scots, Saxons, Heruli, Alani, Lombards, Franks*, &c. over-run like swarms of Locusts all *Romes* Territories. Yea if you interpret St. *Pauls falling away* of *Christians* from the Faith, *Mahomet* observed and affirms that in his time there was the greatest Apostacy of Christians into *Heresie, Idolatry*, and *Prophaneness, more factions and divisions* than ever were known before; and pretends this to be the grand reason that moved him to make a *new model of Religion*, to unite all men of all Religions and humours whatever, under his Banner. In short *Antichrist* that man of sin, is already revealed, the *Roman Emperour*, that hindred his coming, is fallen long ago, therefore the grand falling away in 2 *Thess.* 2. 3, 4. is already past.

Some say *Pagan Rome* is fallen, but not *Christian Rome*. I Answer, *Rome* was never taken and destroyed since St. *Johns dayes*, but when 'twas totally *Christian*: and this is the great wonder why those Plagues and Woes denounced against Rome for her Idolatry, persecutions, and other

other wickedneſſes, ſhould fall upon the Heads of Chriſtians? to which I anſwer, that at the deſtruction of Rome, the reaſon why the (Chriſtians then the only inhabitants thereof,) ſuffered ſo much, was their own fault; either their ignorance of the Prophecy or their unwillingneſs to leave their old Habitation, for they were all commanded by God *locally to depart out of Babylon* leſt they ſhould be partakers of their puniſhments, Rev. 18.4. If *Lot* had not run out of *Sodom*, he had been burnt with the Sodomites; if *Tobias* had not left *Niniveh*, as his Father *Tobit* commanded him, he muſt have ſuffered with the *Ninivites*. Thus a voice from Heaven warned the Chriſtians to fly out of *beſieged Jeruſalem* to *Pella*, i. e. to *Greece* the Country of the *Juvenis Pellæus*, *Alexander M.* where God intendeth to ſet up an Empire of Chriſtians: therefore all the Chriſtians in Rome ſhould have fled out of that accurſed place, with their Emperour *Conſtantine the great*; for God was reſolved to revenge on her all the blood of his Saints, and with Fire and Sword utterly to bring her to perpetual deſolation, Therefore we may better diſtinguiſh between *Imperial* Rome, and *Papal* Rome; *Imperial* Rome both Pagan and Chriſtian is fallen totally, but Papal is not; yet the Pope though he continues ſtill a mighty Prince, yet he alſo has received a dreadful wound by *Luther*, *Calvin*, and *Cranmer*, &c.

3. Hence I inferre that St. *John* did not primarily and intentionally direct his Prophecy againſt the Pope and Papal Rome, but againſt Imperial and Pagan Rome, for St. *John* ſays, Rev. 1. and *c.* 22. that he Propheſies of things that muſt *ſhortly* come to paſſe, and now tis about 1500 *years* ſince St. *Johns* days writting, and yet the Popecontinues in great Power, and not likely to fall totally, as yet. 2. *Papal* Rome ſtands not upon 7 Hills, but ſince 'twas burnt by the *Gothes* and *Vandals*, tis new built on *Campus Martius*, nearer the River *Tibris*: ſo that *Papal* Rome is a new different City from *old* Rome in St. *John* dayes, neither is the *Pope* one of the 7 Heads of Rome, but one that cut off her Head. But yet the Character of the *Whore Babylon* and the *Beaſt* that ſhe rides on, may ſecondarily by way of ſimilitude and Analogy be applyed to *Papal* Rome and the *Pope*, even as whatſoever was written to the Jewiſh and Apoſtolical Churches primarily, intentionally, and directly, was alſo written for our inſtruction, upon *whom the ends of the World are come*.

And if *Papal* Rome be guilty of the ſame ſins and wickedneſs, that *Pagan* Rome is reproved for in Scripture, then ſhe muſt expect to partake of the ſame Plagues and puniſhments; yea tis already viſible, that the Nations are in part already fallen away *from the Pope*, as they did formerly from the *old* Roman *Emperour*, *the Engliſh*, *Scots*, *Iriſh*, *Dutch*, *Danes*,

Danes, *Swedes*, with a great part of *Germany* and *France*, are revolted from the *Popes juriſdiction* and *Religion*. The *Pope* looks juſt like the Emperours Ape, for as the Emperours of Eaſtern and Weſtern *Babylon* were inſatiably Covetous and Ambitious to graſp all the Kingdoms of the Earth into their fiſts, ſo the *Popes of Rome* challenge univerſal and ſupreme power over all Churches and Nations in Chriſtendome; and as they were the chief promoters and Patrons of Idolatries, and moſt cruel perſecutors of thoſe Saints, that refuſed to Worſhip their Idols, ſo are the *Popes*. And this is the only difference between the *Pagan Romans*, and the *Papal Romans*, They Worſhipped *dead Heathens*, as *Mars*, *Apollo*, *Venus*, *Minerva*, Theſe worſhip *dead Chriſtians*, as the *Virgin Mary*, St. *Peter* and other Saints; they made to themſelves and prayed to *images of God*, theſe *images of Holy Men and Women*, ſo for their *perſecutions* there is this difference, the Heathens perſecuted all Chriſtians in general, but the Pope in the general is a Chriſtian, and only perſecutes ſome particular Chriſtians, that are oppoſite to his particular opinions and Factions. *Papal Rome* is now become a Whore, as well as old Babylon, and has made her ſelf and the Kings of the Earth drunk with the blood of the Saints: her Churches are full of Idols, and her Streets of abominable Stews.

4. The Character of the *Beaſt of Babylon* cannot be applyed to *Mahomet*, for *Mahomet* is no *Idolater*, neither are any of his Succeſſors that have eſpouſed his Religion, in any probability of conquering the City, or altering the Religion of *Rome*. Some ſay that *Conſtantinople* is built on 7 Hills, but 'twas not ſo in St. *Johns* time, 'twas then but poor *Byzantium*, neither did it then reign over all the Kings of the Earth, neither can *Conſtantinople* now be called the *great Whore* and *Mother of Harlots*, as *Babylon* is called, Rev. 17. 4. 5. for the *Turks* abhorre all Worſhipping of, or by Images.

5. Though the *beaſt of Babylon* be primarily and moſt properly the *Pagan Emperour of Rome*, and though he was an *Antichriſt* becauſe of a contrary Religion to Chriſt, yet he was not the *grand* or *worſt Antichriſt*, for he perſecuted in the *Apoſtles dayes*, but the *grand Antichriſt* propheſied of by St. *John*, and St. *Paul* was not to appear till the *laſt dayes*, after the Apoſtles death. And 'twas the uſual practice of the primitive Chriſtians to pray for the continuance of the Roman Empire, becauſe they feared worſe times afterwards, under *Antichriſt*: and 'twas the general belief of the Chriſtian Church in all ages, that the worſt *Antichriſt* ſhould ariſe upon the fall of the *Roman Emperour*, this opinion is grounded on St. *Pauls* Prophecy, 2 *Theſſ.* 2. 6, 7. *The myſtery of iniqui-*

ty

ty doth already work, only he who now letteth, will let, until he be taken out of the way, and then ſhall that man of ſin be revealed, i. e. there were then *ſome ſons of Belial* plotting and contriving in their own braines a new model of Religion in oppoſition to Chriſtianity, but the *Roman Emperour* conſidering how many of his ſubjects were dayly murdered for their fidelity, and conſtancy in the Chriſtian Religion, in point of prudence and policy he would not ſuffer *another new Religion* to be broached in his Dominions, as long as he abode in full power and Authority, for fear of another mortality of his Subjects, and another oppoſition of his own Religion. Since then the *Imperial Scepter* is departed from *Rome*, we may ſafely conclude that the *grand Antichriſt* is come, for the *Pagan, Eaſtern* and *Weſtern Emperours of Rome* are all long ago expired; as for the *German Emperour*, he is but of a late extraction, the ſucceſſour of the French *Charles the great*, neither has he now any Power or Sovereignty over *Italy*, nor ſo much as one Town or Caſtle, or one Foot of Land in *Italy*, the Emperours *Rodolphus Habſpurgenſis* and *Vinceſlaus* were the laſt, who ſold and gave away all their poſſeſſions and rights in *Italy*. The lot then is fallen between *the Pope* and *Mahomet*, for they both roſe upon the decay of the *Roman Emperour*, and both roſe almoſt together, the *Pope an.* 607. and *Mahomet an.* 622.

But the beſt way to determine this controverſie is to conſider, to whom *the definitions, and deſcriptions of the grand Antichriſt* in ſacred Scripture do moſt directly and moſt properly agree. Now 1. St. *Johns* definition of *Antichriſt* does properly belong to *Mahomet*. 1 *John* 2. 22. 23. he is the *Antichriſt that denyes the Father and the Son*, which words imply, that the very eſſence and chief Character *of the grand Antichriſt* conſiſts in this, *viz.* in denying that *God has a Son* and in denying that *Chriſt is the Son of God*. Now all Nations (as *Plutarch* obſerved) worſhipped God by the name of Father, as *Jupiter, Marſpiter* πατὴρ ἀνδρῶν τε θεῶν τε, and if you conſult the ſuffrage, and conſent of Nations, you ſhall find it the *Creed of the Univerſe* (before *Mahomet* aroſe) that *God has a Son*. So the *Hebrew*, and *Chaldeans* believed *Prov.* 30. 4. *Dan.* 4. 35. The Greeks and Latines commonly ſtyled famous *Heroes Sons of Jove*.

But *Mahomet* perceiving, that the Chriſtian Religion was built on this fundamental principle, that *Jeſus Chriſt was not begot by man but was truly the Son of God*, and conſidering alſo that he himſelf was but the *Son of a mean obſcure man*, and leſt he ſhould be forced to acknowledge *Chriſt* to be his better and Superiour in birth and worth, he therefore ſtrains all his wit and policy, to undermine *this Article of the Chriſtian*

Religion above all others, affirming it impoſſible, that *God ſhould have a Son* without granting a *Goddeſſe*, yea in his *Alcoran* he not only denyes *Chriſt to be Gods Son*, but alſo derides and cenſures *Chriſtians*, as *Tritheites* and *Polytheiſtes* for worſhipping the ſacred Trinity. But I know no Proteſtants, that ever accuſed the Pope of denying the Trinity and the Divine Sonſhip of Chriſt, neither is it ſaid that he is Antichriſt who denies Chriſts Offices, but who denies his Divine Sonſhip, or who denies the Father Son and Holy Ghoſt.

2. St. *Pauls* prophetical deſcription of the *grand Antichriſt* moſt exactly belongs to *Mahomet*, 2 *Theſſ.* 2, 3, 4, 5. 1. For firſt *Mahomet oppoſed* and *exalted himſelf againſt, and above all that is called God*, and worſhipped (i. e. not only all the *Idol gods* whom the Heathens called Gods and worſhipped) but alſo againſt Moſes and Chriſt who are called Gods in Scripture, *Exod.* 4. 16. *Exod.* 7. 9. For he magnified and boaſted of himſelf, as a *greater Prophet* than Moſes and Chriſt, and he was the only impoſtor, that ever had the daring impudence to deviſe and ſet up another *new Religion* in direct oppoſition to Chriſts, and all other ways of Divine worſhip in the world.

1. Now that thoſe words (*all that is called God and Worſhipped*) are not to be interpreted πολιτικῶς of civil Magiſtrates or Temporal Kings, nor ἐκκλησιαστικῶς of Biſhops and Prieſts, but θεολογικῶς of *objects* or *elſe Modes of Divine Worſhip*, I thus demonſtrate; firſt the Greek word (*for all that is Worſhipped*) is σέβασμα, now the Athenian σεβάσματα (for which the City is ſaid to be κατείδωλος wholy given to Idolatry, and for which the people are ſaid to be δεισιδαιμονέστερους too ſuperſtitious, or too great worſhippers of *Dæmons*) were not the *Areopagites* Magiſtrates or Prieſts of *Athens*, but thoſe Idols whom they worſhipped, *Acts* 17. 16. 23. or their manner of adoration, and modes of devotion.

2. St. *Pauls* words are moſt plainly paraphrazed by Daniels prophecy of *Antiochus Epiphanes Ch.* 11. 36. to 40. He is ſaid to exalt and magnify *himſelf above every God of the heathens* and the *God of Gods* i. e. the true God of Iſrael, and to ſet up a *new God of Mahuzzim* to be worſhipped, in oppoſition to all other Gods, ſo did *Senacharib*, *Iſa.* 36. 19, 20. ſo did *Nebuchadnezzar Dan.* 3, 14. to 19.

3. I know many apply theſe words to the *Popes* exalting himſelf above all Kings and Biſhops in Chriſtendome, therefore I ſhall prove, that Supremacy in *Church and State* does not formally of it ſelf argue a perſon *Antichriſt*. For as the *King of England* is in all cauſes, and over all perſons within his dominions, ſupream head and Governour, ſo was *Conſtantine the great and Theodoſius the Great*, and many other good Chriſtian

Christian Emperours supream and Universall Governours over all the Roman world. So King *David* and *Solomon* &c, Had the supream power over all the priests and princes in Israel, yea sometimes also it happened, that the High priest of Israel or Judah was supream over all in that Church and state, as *Ei Mattathias*, yet none ever had the impudence or ignorance to call any of these Antimoses or *Antichrists* for they were all *excellent Saints*.

4. At that same time when St. *Paul* wrote this Epistle to the Thessalonians, *the pagan Emperour of Rome* the vilest Monster of Mankind did most proudly and tyrannically exalt himself above, and oppose all the kings and princes of the Earth, and deposed, persecuted and murdred all good Bishops and priests at his lawlesse pleasure, and therefore St. *Paul* must prophesy of *another sort of lawlesse opposer and exalter of himself* against and above all that is called God and all wayes of worship. Now no *other Impostor* in the world ever made himself a greater prophet than *Moses* or *Christ*, or broached a new religion in contempt and defyance of all other religions, but *Mahomet* only.

5. If the *Popes* proud exalting himself above all Emperours and Kings does formally of it self denominate and render him the *grand Antichrist* then *Gregory. 7*, alias *Pope Hildebrand must be the first Antichrist*, although there were above 90 *Popes of Rome* before him from *Boniface the third*, and before this *Boniface* there were above 60 Bishops of *Rome*.

For this *Pope Hildebrand* was the first Pope, that challenged temporal supremacy over all princes and kings in Christendome about an: 1073. but surely Antichrist was come many hundred yeares before, becaus the *Roman Empire*, was fallen long before that time, yea and had suffered a double translation, first from Italy to Greece, secondly from Greece to Germany,

Neither can this text be applyed *to the Popes exalting himself above all Bishops and Preists in the Church*, for *Preists* are not called *Gods* in Scripture as Kings are, therefore *Gregory the great* his calling the Patriarch of *Constantinople* the forerunner of *Antichrist* for assuming the title of Universal Bishop, must be taken with a grain of Salt; for doubtlesse 'twas farre from the intentions of that good Emperour *Mauritius* to set up *Antichrist*, doubtlesse 'twas far from the thoughts of that holy Patriarch *John Jejunator* (so called for his frequent fasting) to destroy Christianity or to ruine the Church.

Therefore upon serious consideration, I believe that *Gregory the Great* either spake passionately, out of self interest and indignation, that the *late upstart Bishop of Constantinople* should overtop the *ancient Bishop of*

Rome, or he ſpake *Prophetically*, for it may be inferred from *Gregories* calling him *the fore-runner of Antichriſt*, that twas his, and the Churches belief in thoſe dayes, that *Antichriſt* was not then come, but yet ſhortly expected. And ſo it came to paſſe, for in the Reign of *Heraclius*, the ſucceſſour of *Phocas*, the ſucceſſour of *Mauritius*, about 30 years after *Gregory*, the *Antichriſt*, i.e. *Mahomet* appeared. But this is undoubted truth which *Gregory* ſpake, that the title of *Univerſal Biſhop* favoured too much of Luciferian pride and arrogance, and that none of his predeceſſors at *Rome* ever uſurped it before. For twas an innovation in Church Government, and a meer temporal donation of the Emperour. *Mauritius* gave it firſt to the Patriarch of *Conſtantinople*, the next Emperour *Phocas* gave it to the Biſhop of *Rome*. You will now demand, whoſe right it was? I anſwer, it can't be proved by the word of God to be the right of either: yea Chriſt ſharply reproves his diſciples for ſtriving who ſhould be the greateſt among them. But this I ſay, that the *Pope of Rome* has had more wit and better luck to keep what he had gotten, then the Patriarch of *Conſtantinople*, and by the donations of ſome Emperours and other great Friends, and by his crafty politick taking advantages of the neglects and weakneſs of other Emperours, the Pope is now become the richeſt, and moſt Potent of all Biſhops in Chriſtendome, ſo that the *Popes temporal and eccleſiaſtical ſupremacy* ought not to be accounted any matter of Conſcience, or piece of religion, but only a thing of Fortune and Favour in this world, and tis held only by Policy and Power. And as long as the King of *England* holds the ſword in his own hand, he need not fear that he ſhall be guilty of tranſgreſſing any one of Gods Laws by keeping the Pope out of *England*: For the Pope was not made univerſall Biſhop over the Church of Chriſt, till about ten years after *Gregory the Great*, ſent St. *Auſtin* to convert the *Engliſh*. anno 595.

And the firſt time the Pope uſurped the temporall Lordſhip of *Rome*, was, when the *Exarchate of Ravenna* was wholly overthrown by the *Lombards*. For then the *Conſtantinopolitan* Emperour had no Governours left in *Italy*, but Biſhops only.

Afterwards Pope *Gregory* 2 proved a downright rebell againſt the Emperour *Leo Iſaurus*, for the Pope excommunicated him out of the Church, and forbad the *Italians* to yield any homage, allegeance, or tribute to him, becauſe he ſuppreſſed *Images* and *Saint-worſhip* in the Eaſt.

Afterward Pope *Adrian* the firſt ſets up a new Emperour of the VVeſt, *Charles M.* who with his Father King *Pipin*, and his Grandfather *Charles Martel*, having conquered the *Lombards* in *Italy*, gave all the Lands

Lands of the exarchate of *Ravenna*, *Urbine*, *Ancona*, *Spoleto* &c. to the *Bishoprick of Rome*. The Countesse *Matilda* added *Ferrara* and other Lordships. And doubtlesse *Constantine* M. and many other good Christians did long before give large gifts and revenues to *the Bishops of Rome*, for that State and Glory they lived in, and those vast charges and expenses they were at, in sending and receiving Embasses to and from all parts of Christendome, could not be maintained without great donations and possessions. When the *French* had thus raysed and promoted the *Pope* to great honour, riches and power, he stood in feare and awe of none but the Emperours of Germany; Out of their hands therefore they first Extorted the whole power of *Investitures*, then by subtle contrivances forced them at last to relinquish *Italy*, and afterwards, perceiving that their power and authority would grow stronger by the Emperours weaknes, they granted royall prorogatives to the tributary *Princes* of *Germany* to prevent all future insurrection of the Emperours against the insulting tyranny of *Papal Rome*. Then the *Popes* growing proud with their abundance of riches and honour they began to *unbishop* themselves, neglecting religion, and the care of souls, and to turn altogether *States-men* and *Polititians* and *Souldiers* for the advancement of their worldly wealth and pompe, and at last came to that insolence and impudence as to trample upon crownes and Scepters, to insult over all Emperours and Kings, the *works of the imperious whorish woman of Babilon*. Thus not vindicating in the least measure the popes wickednes, we have laid the *grand Antichristianisme* at *Mahomets dore*, and there are reasons enough and enough for our casting off the *Pope*, without making him the *grand Antichrist*.

2. *Antichrist* is destribed 2 *Thes.* 2. 4. *Sitting in the temple of God, as God, shewing himself that he is God.* Indeed those *Pagan Emperours Caligula* and *Diocletian* clad themselves in such majestick glorious habits of the heathens Gods, and their images were set up in the temples to be adored as *Gods*, but this was before the time of *Antichrists* appearing, for the *Roman empire* was most potent and flourishing in *Diocletians reigne*. and to *sit as God*, is not to be worshipped, but to act like *the prince of Tyrus, Ezek.* 2,3. *because thy heart is lifted up, and thou hast said I am God, I sit in the seat of God, yet thou art a man and not god, though thou hast set thine heart, as the heart of God, behold thou art wiser than Daniel &c.*

Thus *Mahomet* thought himself as wise as *God*, of greater knowledge and understanding than any man, for he pretended to have invented a better way of divine worship, wiser laws, and a more excellent religion, than

than *Moſes* or *Chriſt* preſcribed. Or as the *prince of Tyrus* thought himſelf invincible, ſo Mahomet thought himſelf as ſtrong, was as bold, courageous, and feareleſs of any harm or Enemies, as if he had been *God almighty*, for he undertook to oppoſe all men of all religions on earth, both *Heathens, Jewes and Chriſtians*, In ſhort he promulged his *Alcoran* with as much confidence and commanding authority, as if the mouth of the Lord had ſpoken it, and that not privately in by-corners, but publickly in the open temples that were conſecrated to the *God of Chriſtians*. In ſhort, he pretended *to be ſent by God*, and inveſted with the *authority of God*, as *Moſes and Chriſt* indeed were; and as *Chriſt* and his apoſtles preached the Goſpel in the Temple of the Jews and heathens, ſo *Mahomet* turnes the Chriſtian churches into Moſques, and therein teaches and celebrates another religion contrary to *Chriſts*, as in all places of his conqueſt is viſible.

Tis obſervable that the firſt four monarchies of the earth, were erected out of the church, by heathens, in Idolatrous places, but the *grand Antichriſtian monarchy* was to be ſet up in the church i. e. in the midſt of Chriſtians. And I know ſome from theſe words infer that *Antichrſt* muſt be an *Apoſtate Chriſtian*; tis certain *Mahomets father* was an heathen, and his mother a Jew, and *Mahomet* was neither *Circumciſed* in his infancy, till by *Abdalla the Jew*, nor *baptized*, till by *Sergius the Monk*, a little before the publiſhing of his *Alcoran*, yet ſome Hiſtorians ſay he was a *Gnoſtick Chriſtian*, and that he was well verſed in the Scripture appeares by his frequent quotations and contradictions thereof, and the *Saracens* (who received the Chriſtian faith in the reign of the Emperour *Valens*) were the firſt revolters to and chiefe promoters of Mahometaniſme.

But I cannot ſee any reaſon from *Pauls* words to beleive that *Antichriſt* h imſelf ſhould be an Apoſtate Chriſtian, but that there ſhould be an Apoſtacy before or upon his coming, and that he ſhould reſide and reign in Chriſtian places, and ſhould teach his wicked Doctrine in the very Temples of God as the Mahometans do in the Greek and the other Eaſtern churches, and that he ſhould make a ſhew as if he had the *Authority of God*, by pretending to be the *Supreame Lawgiver* and *worſhip-orderer of the whole world.*

3. Tis propheſied, that Antichriſts coming ſhould be with great power and lying wonders, Now all know, that Mahomet made way for his religion, not by convincing reaſon, or power of the Spirit, but by the power of the ſword and mighty armies, and though he never pretended to divine miracles, as *Moſes* and *Chriſt*, yet he uſed many cunning

ning tricks and jugling deluſions, for having by his drunkenneſs and whoring brought upon himſelf moſt grevious Epileptick fits, to excuſe the infamy thereof, he told his wife, that the *Angel Gabriel* appeared to him in ſuch majeſty, as caſt him into that conſternation and foaming.

He had alſo trained up a *young Pidgeon* to pick Peaſe out of his ear, which when he publiſhed his *Alcoran*, he pretended was the *Holy Ghoſt* ſent from Heaven to reveal the mind and will of God to him. About this *Pidgeons neck* he hanged a piece with this inſcription in golden letters, *he that can put a Yoke on the Bulls neck, let him be King*. The Bull which *Mahomet* had tamed long before, hearing his Maſters voice preſently ruſhes in amongſt the People with the *Alcoran* about his horns, and layes his Head in his Maſters lap quietly, to be yoked by him, which the ignorant people admiring, forthwith proclaimed him *King* and Gods greateſt Prophet, above Moſes and Chriſt.

And after his death his body was placed in an *iron cheſt at Mecca*, which was drawn up to the top of the vault, and ſtill hangs as it were in the Air by vertue of a great Loadſtone placed in the top or roofe of the Fabrick by Art, on purpoſe to delude vulgar apprehenſions.

He is *the grand Antichriſt*, that has done the greateſt miſchief to *Chriſts* Church and Religion. And the greateſt blow and wound that ever Chriſtendom received from any Sect of men, was from the *Sword and Alchoran of Mahomet*, for his Religion and Armies have over-run almoſt all *Aſia* and *Africa* and a great part of *Europe*, and that which is moſt to be lamented, is, that all thoſe famous places of *Chriſts Birth, Life* and *Death*, *Jeruſalem* and all *Judæa*, yea all thoſe renowned Churches to whom the Apoſtles dedicated all their Epiſtles, as *Corinth, Galatia, Epheſus, Philippi, Coloſſe, Creete, Theſſalonica, &c.* (except the Church of *Rome*) are all ſlaves and Apoſtates to *Mahomet*, yea all *Egypt, Aſſyria, Perſia, India, Arabia, Barbary, Greece*, &c. are now under the Antichriſtian yoke.

And what though Mahometans commend Chriſt as a good man and true Prophet, yet Mahomet is extolled as a better and greater Prophet; what though Chriſtianity be tollerated, connived at among them, yet 'tis deſpiſed as an inferiour ſubordinate and worſer Religion than Mahomets, and is in all places of their Conqueſts thruſt out of the chief and beſt Temples of God.

As for that common opinion that *Idolatry* is a neceſſary ingredient of the *grand Antichriſtianiſme*, we have proved already, that the Jews and Mahometans are formally Antichriſts and yet they abhorre all appearance of Idolatry. And ſecondly, the grand Antichriſt muſt be a worſe

and

and wickeder oppoſer of Chriſt, than thoſe Idolatrous Heathens in the Apoſtles dayes. Therefore thoſe that maintain that the Pope is the grand Antichriſt, muſt alſo maintain that the Pope (though a Chriſtian) is of a more contrary Religion to Chriſt than Mahomet: and that the Papiſts are worſe Idolaters than the Heathens that ſacrificed to *Venus*, *Bacchus* or *Apollo*; and that the Papiſts who will dye for Chriſt, are worſe than the Jews who killed Chriſt. But ſurely Religion (though mingled with ſome corruptions) is better than no Religion, and thoſe that worſhip Chriſt (though in an erroneous way) are better than thoſe, that do not worſhip Chriſt at all. However the *reformers of the Church of England* have thorowly to the utmoſt of their knowledge and power, aboliſhed all the errours and corruptions of the Church of *Rome*; And therefore are no wayes lyable to the charge of *Antichriſtianiſme* (As God willing ſhall be ſhewed ſhortly in my defence of the reno wned *Cranmer*.)

FINIS.